

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A facsimile machine connectable to PSTN and other networks, comprising:
a delivery condition storage for a plurality of registering delivery conditions to determine to which recipient facsimile image data should be transferred, the facsimile image data being received from another device over PSTN or other networks, and delivery information or instructions being carried together with the facsimile image data; and

a control unit for determining one or more recipients of the facsimile image data in accordance with one or more delivery conditions that match the delivery information or instructions of the facsimile image data, and for transferring the facsimile image data to the determined one or more recipients.

2. The facsimile machine of claim 1, wherein the control unit transfers the facsimile image data to the determined one or more recipients in accordance with protocols suitable to the respective recipients.

3. The facsimile machine of claim 1, wherein the delivery conditions include day and time of data transfer.

4. The facsimile machine of claim 1, wherein the control unit transfers the facsimile image data to a printer associated with the facsimile machine or another printer connected to the other networks when data delivery to at least one of the determined one or more recipients fails.

5. The facsimile machine of claim 1, wherein the recipients include a client machine connected to the other networks.

6. The facsimile machine of claim 1, wherein the recipients include a client machine connected to the other networks via the internet.

7. The facsimile machine of claim 1, wherein the recipients include a facsimile machine connected to the other networks via the internet.

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8. A facsimile communication method comprising the steps of:

- A) receiving facsimile image data over PSTN at a facsimile machine;
- B) preparing a list of one or more recipients, to whom the received facsimile image data will be transferred from the facsimile machine over another network, based on delivery conditions stored in a storage unit of the facsimile machine, and further determining whether a flag for causing a printer of the facsimile machine to print the received facsimile image data should be raised based on the delivery conditions;
- C) transferring the received facsimile image data based on the list; and
- D) causing the printer to print the received facsimile image data based on the flag.

9. The facsimile communication method of claim 8, wherein the step B includes the sub-steps of:

B-1) adding a recipient to a first area in the list when a reception condition of the delivery conditions is accepting the facsimile image data always or delivery information or instructions carried together with the received facsimile image data match an individual reception condition, and further determining whether the flag should be raised or not; and

B-2) adding a recipient to a second area in the list when the reception condition is not accepting the facsimile image data always and the delivery information or instructions do not match the individual reception condition but the reception condition is accepting the facsimile image data in any condition, and further determining whether the flag should be raised or not, and wherein

the received facsimile image data is transferred to recipients of the first and second areas of the list in the step C.

10. The facsimile communication method of claim 8, wherein the flag is raised when data transfer to recipients fails.

11. The facsimile communication method of claim 8, wherein the another network includes at least one of LAN and internet.

12. The facsimile communication method of claim 8, wherein the delivery conditions include day and time of data transfer.

13. The facsimile communication method of claim 8 further including the step of causing a second printer connected to the another network to print the received image data if data transfer to recipients fails.

14. The facsimile communication method of claim 8, wherein the received image data is transferred in the form of e-mail.

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15. A machine comprising:

means for receiving data from a first device over a first network together with delivery information or instructions; and

means for transferring the data to a second device if the delivery information or instructions match at least one of a plurality of predetermined conditions.

16. The machine of claim 15, wherein the first network includes at least one of PSTN, LAN and internet, and the data is facsimile image data.

17. The machine of claim 15, wherein the data is transferred to the second device over at least one of PSTN, LAN and internet.

18. The machine of claim 15, wherein the predetermined conditions include day and time of data transfer.

19. The machine of claim 15, wherein the second device is a printer associated with the machine or connected to LAN or internet.

20. The machine of claim 15, wherein the data is transferred to a printer if data transfer fails.